## Iowa Rankings

- 1. Forbes picked Iowa as the #1 place to live in two categories.

  Best Place for Business & Careers and Best Place to Raise a Family.
- 2. Iowa is ranked as the nation's 2<sup>nd</sup>-most livable state. (CQ Press, 2010)
- 3. Des Moines was picked as the 2<sup>nd</sup>-best place to live. (Money's list of best large metro areas)
- 4. A mes was chosen as the 8<sup>th</sup> best place to live (Money's list of best small cities).
- 5. Des Moines was listed as one of the best cities to live, work, and play. (Kiplinger, 2008)
- 6. Des Moines West Des Moines was selected as the 6<sup>th</sup>-best city to move to in America. (CNBC)
- 7. Kiplinger chose Des Moines as the 7<sup>th</sup> best city for the next decade.
- 8. Iowa City & Ames rank among the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> lowest unemployment rates for metropolitan areas (at 4.3% for Iowa City and 4.5% for Ames). Des Moines ranks as the 37<sup>th</sup> lowest at 6.1%.
- 9. Iowa was named the 6<sup>th</sup>-best state to raise a child. (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2010)
- 10. Iowa enjoys the 7<sup>th</sup> shortest average commute time (18.5 minutes) among the 50 states. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2009)
- 11. Iowa ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the safest neighborhoods in the U.S. (CQ Press, 2010)
- 12. Iowa has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest public high school graduation rate in the U.S. (CQ Press, 2010)
- 13. Iowans enjoy the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest housing costs. (US Census Bureau, 2009)
- 14. Iowans pay the lowest combined average auto insurance premiums of any state in the nation. (National Association of Insurance Commissioners, 2006)
- 15. Iowa ranks 9th in the nation for number of state parks, recreational areas, and natural areas. (over 1400 miles of trails for hiking and biking within its state parks & recreational areas Iowa Department of Transportation)
- 16. Iowa ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation for peacefulness. (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2011)
- 17. Iowans are the center of the political universe every 4 years!